

The "North Island" or "Auckland Bus Incident" refers to an anomalous occurrence on 18 October 1997 on the North Island of New Zealand.

A trio of passenger coaches carrying approximately 160 passengers mostly of Eastern Asian origin departed their Auckland terminal destined for the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland (commonly and currently referred to as Auckland Centennial Park) approximately 09:15 local time. The itinerary detailed a 1 hour travel time to the park followed by a 4 hour stop-off to allow tourists to explore trails and participate in sightseeing activities.

The coaches, instead, inexplicably took a nearly 4 hour detour to faraway Horopito, over 300 km to the south along State Highway 4.

The travel agency was unaware of any abnormality until the buses failed to check in as scheduled at their destination, at which time a series of radio transmissions were made to no avail.

It was not until 17 hours after the buses initially went missing that they were discovered by a pair of New Zealand Police officers in a remote part of abandoned farmland far outside the city limits. The coaches themselves were empty and one was disabled, having broken its rear axle after going off-road.

The passengers themselves were discovered later, some in a catatonic state. Most, however, were found engaging in what appeared to be common agrarian tasks using phantom instruments- threshing presumably imaginary grain and cording imaginary logs in near total darkness. They did not respond to verbal or visual cues for nearly an hour until the entire lot came to their senses early in the morning hours.

Besides official incident reports (which are generally unavailable and heavily redacted) very little English correspondence exists. A Canadian by the name of John Michael Moody- is said to have claimed of "strange, animal noises" as his last memory while

sitting on the coach. The drivers of the buses were not interviewed by the authorities or their supervisors and their whereabouts are currently unknown.

The wikipedia page for Horopito, New Zealand states: "In the early days Horopito was a bustling sawmilling town. It had a school, two hotels, a bank, post office and numerous housing. In the 1920/30s Horopito fell into decline. People were leaving for better sounding work. Today nothing remains of most of the buildings."